



# MAKING THE SHIFT: MOVING FROM A TEACHER CENTERED EDUCATION TO A STUDENT CENTERED EDUCATION

Kunjilata Lal

Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Ranchi Women's College, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

## ABSTRACT

In the past, classrooms were often all about the teacher. These days, though, we know that student centered education make a better and more effective learning environment for students. Sometimes knowing just how to change the focus from the teacher to the student is well hard. It's easy to stand up in front and talk for an hour but not as easy to create an environment where your students take the centre stage. Whether you are just moving to a student centered education or are a pro at stepping back and letting your students take the stage.

The educational system of the future must embrace a learner – centered perspective to maximize high standards of learning, motivation and achievement for all learners – for both students and their teachers. The learner – centered perspective begins with a focus on knowing and understanding of the learning process itself. It couples a focus on knowing and respecting individual learners with the best available research and practitioner experience about learning.

**KEYWORDS:** Teacher Centered Education, Student Centered Education.

## A TEACHER CENTERED EDUCATION:

Teacher Centered Education are generally associated with traditional approaches to education but teacher centered activities can be useful in a variety of ways in teacher. The teacher is an effective model of the education and an important source of information. A teacher centered education is one where activity in the class is centered on the teacher. Students put all their focus on the teacher and the goal of a teacher is to transfer his or her knowledge to the students. It is true that the teacher possesses more knowledge on his subject than his or her students, this outlook on learning is more about the teacher than the student. The traditional education was teacher centered where teachers possessed the knowledge, values, norms and societal beliefs transmitted to students who did not possess them. Traditional education, developed authoritative power and autonomous behaviours amongst teachers and lead to inferiority complexes among students. The historical relationship between elders and children has developed an inferiority complex and cowardly behaviour amongst students in the education. In a teacher centered education students were nurtured to accept everything taught by their teachers. In teacher-centered education the teacher talks while the students exclusively listen. He/She stands at the front of the room and all eyes are on him or her. The teacher's goal is to provide answer to his or her students by giving knowledge that he/she wants to impart to the students. In the teacher centered education students are passive. They are there to take in what the teacher presents. The students were like sponge.

## MAKING THE SHIFT TO A STUDENT CENTERED EDUCATION :

A foundational shift from a traditional education to a student centered education does not eliminate the teacher. A student centered education facilitates a more collaborative way for students to learn. The teacher acts as a facilitator, providing feedback and answering question when needed and acts as an instructor. Its the student that chooses how they want to learn, why they want to learn that way and students answer each others questions and give each other feedback, using the instructor as a resource when needed. As the education is no more teacher centered but now it is student centered allowing the students to create to participate and to be heard. Loosely governed and highly self-directed teaching and learning activity will occur both within and beyond the formal, resulting in knowledge becoming fully accessible to anyone interested. Student centered education focus on the students desire and ability to acquire knowledge. Teacher move around the classroom and check in with students progress and productivity. Students do more of the talking and the classroom is often noisy and busy. The class is designed to meet their needs rather than the material the teacher hopes to cover. Teacher should make a point of avoiding traditional lectures and make sure that the students do more talking than we do each day and let the students know that a teacher is there as a resources for them. Students centered education are more fluid and flexible. Sometimes the best lesson for the day is the unplanned lesson but the one that meets the needs of the students. A teacher should be flexible in what they cover in class. Focus should be more on students asking questions. Teacher should encourage their students to ask questions. Teacher should pay attention to questions they ask and make sure that they are able to meet the needs of the students. In a student centered education the teacher is more of a guide than a leader. The teacher points out important points on the students educational journey. They help students move in the right direction as they explore and motivate their own learning. They should give students a chance to discover knowledge or figure out things on their own. The students are actively engaged in their work, they influence so much of what happens and they actively participate. Now, they

are not a sponge taking in knowledge but an archaeologist digging for treasures of knowledge. Encourage the students inquisitiveness and curiosity and show that the teacher is there as a resource for them if they have any doubt. Students will be actively involved in the construction of knowledge if teachers would be ready to position themselves as learners learning from their students and vice-versa. This is implemented when there is knowledge sharing between the teacher and student and that respect is embedded within the two and not within a single group. Students would not automatically construct knowledge by their involvement in the lesson, instead, it would be determined by the kind of educational relationship that exist between student and their teacher. It would mean that the teacher student relationship during classroom instruction influences students level of engagement in the creation of knowledge. The current teacher student relationship denotes the perpetuation of the long-lived culturally teaching orientation that provide opportunities for students to make sense of the topics using their life experiences.

So, the shift from teacher centered education to student centered education is one of the aspects embarked on to address quality issues in delivery of education. The basis for a shift in teaching paradigm has been motivated by the need for learners to effectively engage in the knowledge construction process and so we can say, gone are the days when teachers stood at the front of the class doing out their wisdom to rows and columns of students.

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